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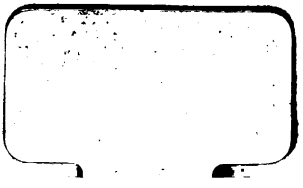
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A

TREATISE

ON THE

DISCIPLINE

OF

LIGHT CAVALRY.

WITH ANNEXED PLATES.

By Capt. L. NEVILLE,

OF THE 13TH REGIMENT OF LIGHT DRAGOONS.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. EGERTON, AT THE MILITARY LIBRARY,
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THE following little Military Treatiſe is reſpectfully offered to the inſpection of the officers of cavalry, and 'tis hoped will be honoured with their approbation.

The ſyſtem of training and forming recruits and young horſes, is founded on the practice of cavalry corps of the line, conſpicuous for their appearance, horſemanſhip, and diſcipline.

The horſe drill on a plan, ſimple, conciſe, and eaſily explained and underſtood.

The manœuvres upon new and improved principles, and are performed on fixed and pre-determined points, conformable to thoſe adopted by general officers, eminent for their extenſive and intimate knowledge in the eſſential branches of the cavalry ſervice, and as analogous as the nature of the two ſervices will admit of to thoſe ſo admirably and ſcientifically laid down for the infantry by Lieut. General Dundas.

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The horſe evolutions, ſo called, and the manual and platoon exerciſe, are ſo generally known, that the author conceives it would only be ſuperfluous, and tend unneceſſarily to ſwell the work to inſert them. Conciſeneſs has been his aim, and he flatters himſelf that the impartial military reader will acknowledge that no extraneous matter has been introduced in the following ſheets. The number of manœuvres may by ſome be thought too great; but to prevent the price of the publication from becoming high, explanatory plates are annexed only to thoſe moſt generally in uſe, and confined chiefly to the changes of front, by the operations of open and cloſe column.

Twenty-one years in his Majeſty's Service in the cavalry, a conſiderable portion of that time on foreign ſervice, the greater part of the whole period in the active departments of adjutant and riding-maſter, and an attentive application to the ſeveral duties of the profeſſion, will 'tis hoped, give the author ſome degree of credit for his pretenſions to a tolerable ſhare of knowledge in the eſſential practice, adopted in training and forming corps of Light Cavalry.

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ERRATA.

Page 1, line 13, *for* compliment *read* complement.
2, --- 4, *for* ſquadron *read* ſquad.
6, --- 5, *for* faſt *read* firm.
9, --- 30, *for* bradon *read* bradoon.
16, --- 20, *for* lime diameter *read* ſemi-diameter.
35, --- 8, *for* three *read* threes.

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PLAN

FOR THE FORMATION OF A

CORPS OF LIGHT CAVALRY;

Compriſed under the following Heads, viz.

FOOT DRILL, RIDING SCHOOL, || HORSE DRILL, MANOEUVRE.

PART I.

RECRUIT.

THE ſize of men proper for a corps of light dragoons ſhould be from five feet five inches to five feet eight inches, but on no account exceed the latter ſize. Light dragoons ſhould be ſtraight, well made, and active; a recruit's age ſhould not exceed twenty, nor be under ſixteen years. The beſt deſcription of men for recruiting light cavalry is, country lads, brought up about farm houſes; they are in general ſober, healthy, accuſtomed to the care of horſes, and eaſily taught to ride.

Size.

Make.

Age.

Men proper for recruits.

On a recruit joining the regiment, he ought to be immediately provided with the compliment of neceſſaries, and fitted with his regimental cloathing, to be ſettled with for his bounty money; and

Neceſſaries Clothing. Bounty.

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the balance, after deducting for neceſſaries, to be paid him. A few days may be allowed him before he is ſent to drill; but in this interval, the non-commiſſioned officer of his ſquadron ſhould ſhew him how to dreſs himſelf in a ſoldier-like manner, and to keep his regimentals and appointments in good order. No coloured clothes ſhould be ſuffered to remain in his poſſeſſion, on any account, for reaſons to obvious to require mentioning.

Dreſs.

FOOT DRILL.

WHEN the recruit is ordered to drill, he ſhould be put into the hands of a careful, able, non-commiſſioned officer. Nothing is more conducive to the diſcipline of a regiment, than having a number of non-commiſſioned officers, who are expert drills.—They ſhould be ſober, eminently good-tempered, and underſtand the method of teaching perfectly; they ſhould be capable of diſtinguiſhing want of capacity from inattention, or idleneſs. Some men take up their exerciſe rapidly, while others require a conſiderable time; nor is it unfrequent that the latter, in the end, turn out the moſt expert ſoldiers: the frequent uſe of the cane at exerciſe ſhould be prohibited; additional drill hours will be found a more ſalutary puniſhment.

Character of good Drills.

Poſition of the recruit without arms.

The recruit ſhould firſt be made to ſtand in the military poſition, his heels cloſe, and in a line; toes turned out, knees well braced, a little bend in the middle of the body, ſhoulders back, head gracefully up, and arms hanging down, with the flat of the hands on the outſide of the thighs; but by

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by no means kept too long in this attitude, as it is rather tireſome at firſt.

He is next to be taught to march at ordinary and quick times, the former not leſs than ſeventy-two, the latter one hundred and twenty ſteps in a minute; length of pace thirty inches, and frequent intervals of reſt may be allowed: drill twice a day will be ſufficient; the morning ſhould be employed in ſetting up, facing and marching, the evening in a walking drill. This laſt does not ſeem in general to ſtand in that degree of eſtimation, or meet with the attention it moſt certainly deſerves, as nothing is more eſſential to the appearance and air of the dragoon. The men ſhould frequently paſs by the perſon who conducts the drill, at an eaſy, unconſtrained pace, their arms moving, heads properly up, and walk with a firm, lengthy ſtep: they ſhould next ſalute him, as they paſs to both hands, if on the left, they muſt ſalute with the right hand, and vice verſa; and always look full in the face of the perſon ſaluted, with a proper ſoldier-like confidence: this will ſoon diveſt them of their awkward ruſtic gait and manner, and perfect them in the graceful walk, and military air, ſo conſpicuous and becoming, in the diſciplined ſoldier.

Times of march.

Morning Drill.

Walking Drill eſſentially uſeful.

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PART II.

RIDING SCHOOL.

THE recruit being brought into the riding-ſchool, and a ſteady quiet horſe ready for the purpoſe, he is taught to mount as follows:

Poſition of man and horſe before mounting.

The horſe muſt be placed ſtanding even on all fours, the man facing the ſame way, his right hand graſping the rein of the ſnaffle bridle, near to, but not preſſed againſt the horſe's neck; heels together, and in a line with the horſe's fore feet. On the word of command,

Prepare to mount.

he faces to the horſe on the left heel, takes up the end of the reins with the fore finger and thumb of the right hand, introduces the little finger of the left hand betwixt the reins, draws up the reins ſo as to ſhorten them properly with the right hand, reſting the left on the horſe's neck, throws the reins to the off ſide with the right hand, graſps a handful of the mane with the right hand, and puts it into the left, ſeizes the upper part of the near ſtirrup with the right hand, and puts in the left foot as far as the ball of the great toe, right arm hanging down by the right ſide.

Method of mounting till ſeated in the ſaddle.

He ſeizes the off part of the cantle of the ſaddle with the right hand, hops lightly, and raiſes himſelf erect, and ſtanding for a moment in the ſtirrup, with his heels cloſe together, raiſes his right leg and thigh, and paſſes them over the horſe's croup, ſhifting the right hand from the cantle to the pummel of the ſaddle; the weight of the body being ſupported by that hand, till the man is lightly ſeated in the centre of the ſaddle; the hand to be looſed from

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from the horſe's mane, bridle reins adjuſted, and right hand hanging down behind the right thigh.

The dragoon ſhould be ſeated exactly in the centre of the ſaddle, not too much on his twiſt or fork, nor too much back; the head gracefully up, ſhoulders ſquare and well back, the body rather inclining back than forward; left elbow hanging directly under the left ſhoulder, and touching the ſide; bridle hand about four inches from the body, and the height of the elbow; wriſt rounded, and knuckles turned in; thighs well turned to the ſaddle; legs hanging with their own weight, and lightly touching the horſe's ſides. Poſition of the man on horſeback.

THE LONGE.

THE recruit being mounted, and placed in poſition, a caveſſon ſhould be put on the horſe, the teacher holding the end of the longe, and the horſe walked a few turns to the right, then be brought up to the centre of the circle; a few turns more to the left, attending very minutely to the poſition of the rider. Walking leſſon.

After a few leſſons as above, the horſe may be put into a gentle trot, for three or four turns to the right, the inſide rein the ſhorteſt, and the rider's body leaning to the inſide of the circle; then brought up to the centre of the circle, the teacher explaining to the man where he had done well, and where he might have done better. A like number of turns to the left, explaining and directing as before: the leſſon may finiſh by reining the horſe back, that is by raiſing up his head, pulling the bridle ſtronger than uſual, but with a lively feel, Trotting leſſon.

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and the rider keeping his body well back; when ſufficiently back, *halt*: compleat the leſſon by bringing up the horſe to the place from which he was firſt reined back.

Galloping leſſon.

When the recruit is practiſed in the trot, and faſt on his horſe, let him proceed to a gallop. The horſe muſt lead with the inſide leg before and behind, and the rider ſhould be taught to know when his horſe goes *falſe*, without looking down at his legs. Practice and attention will ſoon enable him to do this; as when a horſe gallops falſe, or diſunited, his motion is always rough and unpleaſant to his rider. As the horſe increaſes his pace, the rider's body muſt lean proportionally more back, and to the inſide of the circle; his legs muſt be kept ſteady, and not work againſt the horſe's ſides, and the ſpurs by no means to be uſed, unleſs there is an abſolute neceſſity for it, in which caſe it will be pointed out by the teacher.

Neceſſity of a light lively hand on horſe-back.

The teacher cannot too often inculcate the propriety and neceſſity of a *light lively hand* on horſe-back. To this end, when a recruit begins to ride with a ſnaffle bridle, he ſhould be taught to play the bit in the horſe's mouth, and conſtantly to feel and eaſe him; this not only lightens the man's *hand*, but preſerves and often reſtores the ſenſibility of a horſe's mouth, rendered callous by hard pulling and bad riding. When he comes to ride with a bit and curb, his horſe ſhould not be allowed to move five yards at any pace, without relaxing his reins, and feeling the horſe's mouth again. This ſhould be done by the movement of the wriſt of the bridle hand only; the arm from the wriſt to the ſhoulder being at all times, and in all paces, to be kept perfectly ſteady, the elbow touching the ſide, and not to move or be influenced by the horſe's motion.

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THE SQUARE.

WHERE there is no riding-houſe convenient, the following mode of leſſon, on an oblong ſquare, in the open field, will anſwer fully as well.

Let four poles, rather longer than thoſe of camp colours, with a flag of linen, eighteen inches ſquare at the top of each, and ſhod with pointed irons at the bottom, be put down, ſo as to form a ſquare of fifty yards long, by twenty-five broad. When the man has had his leſſon in the longe, let him be ſent to the ſquare, where a properly qualified perſon ſhould attend to give him the following leſſon. Riding poles and flags. Riding ſquare. Plate I. Fig. 1.

Let him bring his horſe into the center of the ſquare (the caveſſon previouſly taken off) and place himſelf in the deſcribed poſition on horſeback, his ſtirrups properly fitted; that is, when his legs hang with their own weight, the bar on which the foot reſts ſhould hang as low as the inſide of the man's ancle; reins properly taken up and divided, and bridle hand and arm properly placed. On the word march, he moves his horſe forward at a walk, and when arrived on the line between two camp colours, turns his horſe to the right, moves on, walks one turn of the whole ſquare, and when come to the middle of the next longeſt ſide *double*, that is, cutting the ſquare in two, and going on again to the ſame hand; when paſt the next ſhorteſt ſide, and about five yards advanced on the long ſide, *change*, that is, croſs the ſquare on a diagonal line to within five yards of the oppoſite corner; and when on the new line to the left, ſhorten the inſide rein, go on to the left one turn, *double* and *change* as before, trot two turns, *double*, *change*, gallop two turns, *double*, *change*, *trot*, *walk*, halt, rein back, Length of ſtirrups. Walk. Double. Plate I. Fig. 1. Change. Plate I. Fig. 1. Trot. Gallop. Rein back.

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at three ſeveral times, making a ſhort halt between each, and move up again to the original ground. The whole of the above to be performed in the ſame manner by four or ſix recruits, at three or four horſe's length interval between each.

The above leſſon, with proper attention to the hand, ſeat, and poſition of the rider, and frequent repetitions, will prepare him for the horſe-drill in a very ſhort time, if he has a tolerable capacity.

Riding Leſſon for a Regiment.

Six ſquares neceſſary for riding a regiment.

LET a ſquare with camp-colours, and of the ſame dimenſions as in plate No. I. be laid down for each troop, on the ſame line, and about twenty yards interval, one from another—A perſon properly qualified ſhould be appointed to ſuperintend each ſquare. The flags of each troop ſhould be diſtinguiſhed by the letter of the troop being marked on them.

Plate I. Fig. 1. and 2.

The regiment drawn up in line, each troop oppoſite to, and about twenty yards diſtant from, its proper ſquare—twelve, ſixteen, or any number of men the commanding officer may think proper, to be ſent to each ſquare; or if the troops are not very ſtrong, each may be told off into leſſons, two of the front rank, and two of the rear.—The teacher will then put them through the following leſſon:

Figures & regulations to be obſerved in a riding leſſon.

The number of men appointed for the leſſon move forward in a rank entire by the right, and when advanced to the middle of the ſquare—from the right to the right file, with a horſe's length interval between each; walk one turn to the right, double, change: one turn to the left, double, change. Trot to the right two turns, double, change.

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change. Two turns more to the left, double, change. Gallop two turns to the right, double, change. Two turns more to the left, double, change. Trot, walk, form to the right in a rank entire: rein back at three ſeveral times, halt between each, and move up to former ground. They will then file back to their places, are ſucceeded by an equal number, and ſo on till the whole have got their leſſons.

Obſervations.

Thus, an entire regiment may get a riding leſſon under the eye of the commanding officer, with the utmoſt regularity, and in a ſhort ſpace of time. Particular attention ſhould be paid to the ſeveral circumſtances of hand, ſeat, and poſition: during the leſſons the moſt invincible moderation and good temper from the man towards his horſe ſhould be inſiſted on. Spurs to be very ſparingly uſed; and pulling a dead weight, or jerking at the horſes mouths, not to be permitted on any account.

Leſſons without & with ſtirrups.

As the above leſſon, if properly timed, will not take up more than an hour and a quarter for the whole regiment, it may be practiſed with advantage on field-days before exerciſe; and may be varied by one day walking and trotting only, *without* ſtirrups. The next, walk, trot, and gallop, *with* ſtirrups: but all leſſons in the longe, whether of recruits, or men in a more advanced ſtate of horſemanſhip, ſhould be without ſtirrups.

A ſtick to be carried inſtead of a ſword in common riding leſſons.

When the troops come to ride with bit and bradon, each man ſhould be provided with a ſtick, exactly the length of his ſword, which he ſhould carry in the ſame poſition as he would his ſword: the too frequent uſe of the bradon will, by this means, be prevented. A regiment of cavalry cannot be ſaid to be properly diſciplined, until the men are able to perform all their manœuvres ſword in hand, and manage their horſes by the uſe of the bit reins only.

Breaking

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Breaking in Young Horſes.

Treatment of young horſes.

GREAT attention is neceſſary to the treatment of young horſes during the time of their breaking. The utmoſt gentleneſs ſhould be obſerved towards them at all times; and though at firſt they may appear aukward, or even prove reſtive, patience and great moderation are the moſt certain means of reforming and improving them.

Moderation towards them.

Rough rider to be temperate.

It is therefore an indiſpenſible qualification in a rough rider to be perfectly maſter of his temper in the riding-ſchool. Severity to the horſes ſhould be poſitively interdicted; and any breach of ſuch order exemplarily puniſhed.

Firſt leſſons in a caveſſon.

The colt ſhould get his firſt leſſons in an eaſy caveſſon, carefully put on, ſo as not to preſs too much on, or hurt his noſe; for owing to neglect in this, horſes are frequently ſhy about the head ever after.

Figure of of the longe.

He ſhould be led round the circle to both hands, the caveſſon held ſhort near his head, until he underſtands the figure; the longe may then be lengthened by degrees till he goes freely round, and the rough rider turns in the centre.

Walk.

When the colt walks freely round to both hands, he may then be gently puſhed into a trot, increaſing the pace by degrees, and preventing his galloping as much as poſſible till he is confirmed in a fair full trot; when he has gone ſufficiently round to one hand, he ſhould be called up to the centre of the circle, patted and flattered if he has done well—reined back a few ſteps, and brought up again. He is then to be put round to the other hand. The ſame circumſtances attended to as before; and finiſh by reining back and coming up again.

Trot.

Rein back.

The

The horſe being well confirmed in the trot, and going at the utmoſt rate in that pace, the rough rider ſuddenly, but gently, raiſes his head with the longe and puts him into a gallop: a flouriſh of the long whip may be neceſſary to animate and aſſiſt him, but not to be ſtruck, unleſs he is too ſluggiſh to go without it: he muſt not be allowed by any means to *gallop falſe*, that is, leading with the outſide legs before and behind, or *diſunited*, that is, leading with the near leg before, and off behind; or the off before, and the near behind. When he has gone a few rounds properly he muſt be made to fall into a trot; then walk; brought up to the centre, reined back, and brought up again: the ſame to the other hand, and finiſh.

Gallop.

Falſe.

Diſunion.

Equal leſſon to both hands.

Many horſes go more freely to one hand than to the other. In this caſe the horſe ſhould have a double leſſon to the hand he is aukward at, beginning and ending to that hand.

Leſſon for aukward horſes.

When the horſe is ready in all his paces, and reconciled to the bridle, ſaddle, &c. he may be mounted gently by a ſteady rider, and diſmounted and mounted again ſeveral times before he is moved. His firſt leſſons ſhould be in a ſnaffle, though he may have been previouſly longed in a bit and curb. He muſt be led round the figure in hand, letting out the longe by degrees, till he is familiar with his rider, when he may be gradually puſhed into all his paces. In a few days the leſſon in the ſquare may immediately ſucceed to that of the longe. A ſteady and temperate perſeverance in this mode of treatment, will ſoon render him fit to be put into the ranks.

Backing.

Paces.

Horſes are frequently alarmed at objects and ſounds, becauſe they expect injury from them—Convince them to the contrary, and they will diſregard them; the application of whip and ſpur ſhould

Sights and ſounds.

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Shy horſes.

ſhould be totally prohibited on ſuch occaſions. If a horſe is ſhy at, and endeavours to avoid an object, he muſt not be forced up to it, but paſſed by it often, approaching nearer at each time, till at length he may be brought cloſe up to it without ſhewing any ſymptoms of fear or apprehenſion.

Piſtols to be fired at leſſons and feeding.

Piſtols ſhould frequently be fired in the riding-ſchool, when the horſes are at a walk; beginning with a ſmall charge and gradually increaſing to a full one: and alſo at ſtables once a day juſt before feeding with oats. The horſes will ſoon underſtand it to be the ſignal for feeding, and will be pleaſed inſtead of being frightened at it. Different coloured flags ſhould be waved, and drums beat during the riding leſſons.

Flags. Drums.

General Rules relating to the foregoing.

IT ſhould be generally underſtood, that art, and not force, ſucceeds beſt with all horſes, and with all riders.

That every rider muſt be patient and temperate with his horſe; and every teacher eminently ſo with both.

That it is beſt to prevent the poſſibility of reſtiveneſs and anger in the horſe, by a ſufficient preparation of previous leſſons; and that both man and horſe ſhould be duly prepared before they proceed to a new one.

Leſſons ſhould be ſhort and lively, ſo as not to weary the mind or body of man or horſe: they ſhould be finiſhed correctly by patience and perſeverance. Let the miſunderſtood part of a leſſon be tried again, and a few ſteps only being obtained, halt—and diſmiſs the rider or the horſe.

Thus

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Thus it will remain on the mind, being the laſt act.

In the longe a rough rider or teacher cannot inſtruct properly more than one recruit at a time. In the ſquare ſix or eight recruits are the moſt that can be conveniently attended to at a time. Of men in a more advanced ſtate, whoſe riding is rather intended to preſerve, than improve, their horſemanſhip, ſixteen or twenty may ride at once, at a horſe's length diſtance from each other.

RIDING

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RIDING DRILL.

FILING.

Horſe-drill. WHEN a number of recruits are well forwarded in the riding leſſon, they may then commence the horſe-drill: they ſhould be put ſix, eight, or ten in a rank, with ſnaffles, and at double open files, that is a full horſe's length between each file; moved forward by right, left, and centre: retreated by turning their horſes ſingly to the right or left about, taking care that the horſes turn with an advancing motion, and not be allowed to go back, and men dreſſing as before; told off by right and left files, and advance and retreat by alternate files. The leſſon ſhould always terminate by reining back, and advancing again to the ſame ground.

Number of men at a time.

Double open files.

Advancing Retreating.

Advance and retreat by alternate files.

When the recruits underſtand the above tolerably well, their files may be cloſed to *open files*, or half a horſe's length: they may then be taught to file from right and left, to front and rear; and form to right, left, front, or rear: from the centre to the front, and retreat by two's, the files wheeling about outwards; then front, and form. They may afterwards be formed at cloſe files, that is, to touch lightly; form a rear rank, and practiſe the ſame at cloſe files, which has been performed before at ſingle files.

Open files.

Filing.

Rear rank.

The uſual diſtance allowed in filing from cloſe order is half a horſe's length; the diſtance between ranks at cloſe order, a horſe's length.

Diſtance in filing.

Of ranks.

At the word file, every man half turns his horſe to the hand to which the filing is ordered, ſo as to

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to be prepared to move off his ground in time. After the word march, every man muſt, at leaſt, advance his horſe one ſtep, before he turns him into file.

WHEELING

IS the next diviſion of drill, and ſhould be practiſed at firſt by ſingle ranks of ſix, eight, or ten mounted men.

Wheeling to the right.

In wheeling to the right all eyes go to the left, except the man on the wheeling flank, who looks to his diviſion, in order to prevent opening, or cloſing during the wheel: each man feels to his right without preſſing, and bends his horſe to the hand he wheels to. When the quarter-circle is compleated, halt, and turn horſes heads ſquare. Great care muſt be taken not to cloſe or preſs on the horſes to either hand: preſſure coming from the centre to the wheeling flank ſhould be yielded to a little; but all preſſure from the flanks to the centre ſhould be reſiſted.

Obſervations.

The very erroneous direction of the horſes' heads on the wheeling flank being turned outwards, on a ſuppoſition that it facilitates and gives more room in the wheel, ſhould be exploded, as it has directly the contrary effect; for thoſe horſes having their heads turned to the left, whilſt they are deſcribing a quarter-circle to the right, muſt move ſide-foremoſt, their legs moving in lines croſſing each other, and by taking up double the ſpace allotted to them in the wheel, occaſion crowding and diſorder in the reſt.

Obſervations.

In order to wheel correctly, every horſe in the rank muſt be bent to the hand he wheels to, ſo as to

to deſcribe that portion of a circle ordered.

Plate I. Fig. 3. Plate I. deſcribes the wheel of twelve horſes, and the exact ground each horſe is to go over in a quarter circle.

The following ſcale for wheeling drill has been found much preferable to the common looſe method, being founded on mathematical principles, and is ſtrongly recommended.

Scale for wheeling drill. Plate II. Fig. 4. At the end of the field or riding ground let three circles be deſcribed from the ſame central point whoſe diameters ſhall progreſſively meaſure thirty-two, forty-eight, and ſixty-four yards: let the circumference of each circle, for about nine inches in breadth, be ſprinkled with lime, and afterwards well wetted. Let two tranſverſe diameters at right angles be drawn through the three circles, about a foot in breadth, limed and wetted as before. Any number of mounted men, not exceeding thirty-two in a line, being placed on one of thoſe lime diameters, may be wheeled to the right—right about, or circle entire, on unerring principles, and the ſame to the left. When the wheel is to the right, the right-hand man of the rank touches the central point, and is on the ſtanding flank: the left-hand man is on the wheeling flank, and has the ground he is to go over exactly marked for him, ſo as to prevent the poſſibility of opening or cloſing during the wheel; and troops will be taught to wheel well in this way in leſs than half the time employed in the common uncertain mode of practice.

Obſervations.

In damp weather the lines may be refreſhed with a little lime once a week; in ſummer when the weather is dry, once a month will be ſufficient.

N. B. Should the ſquadron conſiſt of more than forty-two or forty-eight files, wheels of the whole ſquadron ſhould be performed, dreſſing by the centre:

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centre: the commanding officer of the ſquadron is to regulate and give the ground, and at ſuch a pace as the wheeling flank can conveniently conform to.

In all wheelings, the rear rank ſhould cover away well to the wheeling flank, which may be done when wheeling to the right, by every man preſſing his right leg well to his horſe, ſtill bending him to the hand he wheels to; and *vice verſa* to the left. The front rank, wheeling on a ſtanding pivot, has no occaſion to conform to this direction; whereas the rear rank is obliged to it, by wheeling on a ſliding pivot.

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INCLINING.

WHEN well performed, this is a very important movement of cavalry; the moſt deciſive mode of a line gaining an enemy's flank, and by no means ſo difficult as it is generally ſuppoſed, when practiſed on true principles. The beſt direction for inſtruction is on an angle of forty-five with the front, which gains equal ground to front and flank. Suppoſe then, a diviſion ordered to incline to the right, on the above angle, from a halt. On the word of command *To the right incline*, every man in the rank turns his horſe into the direction at the ſame inſtant, by turning his head to that hand, and preſſing his croup to the left, with the right leg, the centre of the horſe's body being conſidered as a pivot on which he is turned. The right-hand man then takes his point of view in the prolongation of the line on which his horſe ſtands, and on the word *march*, the whole move off the ground at the ſame inſtant, dreſſing to the right. During the incline the horſes ſhould move as parallel to each other as when marching to the front.

Directions for inclining.

Scale for inclining. Plate II. Fig. 5.

When the above has been frequently performed to both hands, and is well underſtood, the rank may proceed to a trot, and even a gallop: the word *front* brings them to their original front. Practice on theſe principles will ſoon enable them to move in any degree of obliquity that may be required, and at any pace.

Inclining at a trot & gallop.

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Movements of Ranks by Threes.

CAVALRY movements (whether taking ground to flanks or rear) are performed by this operation with infinitely more facility, celerity, and accuracy than by any other yet diſcovered. It ſimplifies manœuvre; enables troops or ſquadrons to move to the flanks, or rear, in line or column, with as much eaſe as infantry can by filing; and qualifies cloſe column for taking up any poſition to its flanks or rear, without in the ſmalleſt degree extending its order, or requiring a greater ſpace during its march, than that on which it was originally formed.

Excellent properties of the movement in ranks by threes.

If this can be clearly demonſtrated, ſurely a movement ſo applicable and eſſentially uſeful to cavalry, and which obviates almoſt the whole of the difficulties which have hitherto embarraſſed and retarded its evolutions, will not fail to be generally attended to and adopted.

Eſſentially uſeful to cavalry.

The habitual order of cavalry being a horſe's length diſtance between the ranks, and the ſame between diviſions in cloſe column of manœuvre, gives ample ſcope for the operation of this movement.

Diſtance between ranks and diviſions.

If a line of cavalry formed on an alignment is ordered to take ground to its right and march on that alignment; each rank being previouſly told off in *ranks by threes*, the left-hand man of each three turns his horſe to the right on his fore legs; the centre and right files rein back, preſſing their right legs to their horſes to bring them ſquare with the left file: and as the threes of the front and rear rank wheel independent of each other,

Taking ground and marching on an alignment in ranks by threes.

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the line is now converted to a column to the right, with ſix horſes in front. On the word *march*, the column moves to the right, dreſſing by the left, and horſes kept cloſe up; when ſufficiently to the flank, *halt*, and on the word *front*, the left-hand man of each three, front and rear, turns his horſe to the left on his fore legs, the centre and right files wheeling up to the left, and dreſſing by him. The whole will then ſtand in line with their proper diſtance of files correctly preſerved.

Forming up.

When the threes may wheel on their centre file.

But when the object is to form column from line, or line from column; then the threes may wheel on the centre file of each. If to the left, he turns his horſe to the left on his own ground; the left file reins back, with his left leg to his horſe: the right file wheels up to the centre, and the whole move, dreſſing to the right.

Retreat. Paſſing defile.

It is alſo the beſt order for a retreat in line, and of paſſing a defile or bridge in the rear, from both flanks of the line.

Its operation in cloſe column.

The operation of this order in cloſe column of cavalry is peculiarly excellent: a horſe's length between the ranks, and the ſame between the diviſions, whether compoſed of ſquadrons or half-ſquadrons, will be ſufficient for every purpoſe.

Obſervations.

It is neceſſary to obſerve, that taking one horſe with another, the length of a horſe is equal to the breadth or front of three when at cloſe files; and as by the method here propoſed, each three can wheel to the flanks or rear on its own ground, without the ſmalleſt inconvenience to the others who ſurround it, it follows, that a cloſe column compoſed of any number of diviſions may form its march to either flanks or rear, without the leaſt extenſion of its original order or ſpace, in an inſtant. The words *halt*, *front*, brings it to its original front. If the column has been marching to the rear, and ordered to front, the threes continue their

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their wheel to the right about, on the ſame principle as wheeling to the right only.

Hitherto the uſual way of taking ground to the flanks by an open or cloſe column, has been by filing, which looſened and expoſed the troops by drawing them out into a long train of files, took up a great deal of time, and was, beſides, extremely inconvenient in forming up again. By the method here propoſed, it can be done in leſs than half the time, in cloſe and perfect order, and the column is formed to its proper front, by a momentary operation. Obſervations.

Officers commanding ſquadrons, half-ſquadrons, or whatever diviſions the column may be compoſed of, ſhould lead to the flank, dreſſing by the officer leading the diviſion next the proper front. Dreſſing.

The men tell themſelves off by ranks of threes, thus;—the right-hand man turns his head to the left, and calls out *right*; the ſecond man *centre*; third man *left*; the fourth man *right*; fifth, *centre*; ſixth, *left*, and ſo on till the whole are told off. Method of telling off.

It will generally be adviſeable for the ſquadrons to tell themſelves off from the centre to both flanks, beginning on the left of the right half-ſquadron, and on the right of the left.

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COUNTER-MARCHING.

UNDER the article of counter-marching, in this place, that which relates to diviſions in column only will be explained. The counter-march of a line of cavalry will come more properly under the head of manœuvre.

Three ways of counter-march.

There are three ways of counter-marching an open column of cavalry by diviſions; the firſt is performed thus:

1ſt way of counter-march.

A diviſion, ſuppoſe twelve files, is ordered to counter-march: the right half-diviſion, conſiſting of ſix files, moves forward the length of its own front and halts: both half-diviſions are then to wheel about inwards, that is, the right half-diviſion wheels to the left about——the left half-diviſion to the right about and halt. The right half-diviſion then is ordered to move up, halt, and dreſs to the left half-diviſion.

When an open column of cavalry, right or left in front, is to be countermarched this way, it ſhould be done by word of command from the officer commanding the whole, thus—*The column will counter-march by diviſions*, a caution. *Right half diviſions forward by the left, march. Halt*, each half diviſion by its own commander, when it has got to its proper diſtance. *Half diviſions, wheel about inwards, march. Halt*, each by its own commander, when wheel'd the half circle. *Right half diviſions move forward by your left, march. Halt*, by its own commander, and dreſs by the left, and then by the proper pivot flank.

Second

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Second Way of Countermarch.

On the column being ordered to countermarch by diviſions, the right-hand man of each diviſion, or a ſerjeant, moves out by the *front*, and places himſelf on the left of the left rear-rank man of the diviſion, and facing to the rear: the column is then ordered to move forward by the right, except the men placed as above; on the word *March*, the diviſions move forward a diſtance equal to about two thirds of their own front, and then get the word—*From the right of diviſions to the rear file*; on which they file, and form up to the men placed as guides for that purpoſe. 2d way.

Third Way of Countermarch.

The left half diviſions go to the right about by ranks of threes and halt; the whole column is then ordered to wheel about inwards by half diviſions—Halt; Left half diviſions *Front*; on which they come about by ranks of threes. This mode is recommended in preference to the other two. 3d way.

SKIRMISHING.

EXPERT ſkirmiſhers are very uſeful to a corps of cavalry, either to maſk manœuvres of the line or column in preſence of an enemy, or to cover a retreat. The men for this purpoſe ſhould be bold, enterpriſing, and good horſemen; the horſes ſtrong, active and well managed. They ſhould be diſpoſed along the front or rear; their Deſcription of men and horſes fit for ſkirmiſhing. Diſpoſition of ſkirmiſhers.

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intervals in proportion to their number, told off by alternate files, and be attentive not to open or close too much.

Rules for skirmishing.

The line or column advancing, the right files may gallop forward fifty, sixty, or as many yards as will bring them within reach of the enemy, fire carbines or pistols, or both. If the enemy is retreating, the rear (left) files move through the intervals of the right files, fire as the others did, and thus relieve each other as long as it may be necessary. Or it may be expedient for the whole line of skirmishers to advance, and hang on the rear of the retiring enemy, so as to impede their progress as much as possible, till an opportunity offers of attacking them with advantage, or cutting off their retreat.

Advancing.

Retreating.

In case of repulse, and the line or column of cavalry retreating, the advanced files fire at the pursuing enemy, turn their horses to the left-about, retire, and when passed the rear files about twenty yards, *front*; the others then fire and retire in like manner, and thus continue alternately till ordered to join their squadrons.

Should the retiring corps halt and front, the skirmishers will then advance and retreat alternately on their own ground.

Flankers.

When the flank of a line of march is annoyed by an enemy, skirmishers should be sent out to keep them at a distance; in this case they are generally called flankers: they may also be used with advantage to reconnoitre villages, and also woods or covers near the line of march, where ambuscades might be formed.

Signal to call in skirmishers.

A particular signal of the trumpet or bugle horn should be established to call in skirmishers or flankers.

It will at all times be proper to have two or more small parties formed with drawn swords to support

ſupport the ſkirmiſhers, and protect their flanks; the neceſſity of this will appear obvious, when it is conſidered the looſe order in which they are formed, and that a ſmall body of the enemy's cavalry, by getting on their flank, might do them conſiderable injury, though ſo near their own line, and before they could be aſſiſted from it. The parties ſhould follow the ſkirmiſhers, about half way between them and the line, and rather outflank them a little. Should the ſkirmiſhers expend their ammunition, thoſe parties will return ſwords, take up their places, and ſkirmiſh; and thoſe who return will form up, ſtrap up their carbines, draw ſwords, and ſupport the others.

Small ſupporting parties to protect the flanks of ſkirmiſhers,

and ſkirmiſh in their turn.

In ſkirmiſhing, the front and rear rank men ſhould be inſeparably attached; and, on all occaſions invariably act, ſo as to mutually ſupport each other. In arranging the line of ſkirmiſhers, it may be conſidered as a rule, that the rear rank man ſhould be placed on the left of his front rank man, and that both their pieces ſhould never be diſcharged at the ſame time; when the front rank man diſcharges, the rear rank man reſerves his fire till the other is loaded, he then fires; and thus alternately.

Front and rear files to be attached, and ſupport each other.

Skirmiſhers ſhould be very attentive to, and inſtantly obey, the ſignal for recalling them, and be previouſly informed which flank of their reſpective ſquadrons they are to come in by.

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Advancing

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Advancing and Retreating in Line, Charging, &c.

Leading the line.

NO operation of cavalry requires more attention and regulation than that of advancing and retreating well in line. Whoever leads the line or diviſion, ſhould pay the utmoſt attention to his *points of view*, and lead the line perpendicular to its own front; two conſpicuous points to march on ſhould be taken, and may be interlined by tufts of graſs, little hillocks, ſtones, weeds, or any other ſmall, fixed, objects that may preſent themſelves; he muſt be totally occupied in leading the diviſion perfectly ſtraight to the front, as the ſmalleſt deviation from the perpendicular line in the centre is felt in a multiplied degree at the flanks, and occaſions crowding and floating in the whole line.

Points of view. Plate II. Fig. 6.

Dreſſing of the line.

The line in general dreſſes to its centre; the men ſhould not be allowed to turn their heads, their eyes only ſhould glance to the centre to keep their dreſs. It cannot be too often impreſſed on their minds, that when moving in line the ſmalleſt turn or inclination of their horſes to the hand they dreſs to will certainly cauſe irregularity and crowding in the line, and the ſame if turned to the flank, though in a leſſer degree. The true method of advancing well in line at any pace is, that every horſe in the ranks ſhould move perfectly parallel to that of the leader; the centre man in rear of the leader ſhould cover him exactly, at a full horſe's length diſtance, and not get nearer to him on any account. Should any of the horſes fall back, or get a little too forward during the movement, they ſhould be brought into their places again by ſlow and almoſt imperceptible degrees; ſudden movements of any part of the line, whether quicker

Method of advancing well in line.

Neceſſary attentions.

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quicker or ſlower than the pace at which the whole ought to move, occaſion a ſhake, and more or leſs of diſorder.

Neceſſity of the rear rank keeping its proper diſtance.

Another circumſtance that is highly eſſential to the quick movement of cavalry in line, though too frequently overlooked or diſregarded, is that of the rear rank moſt ſcrupulouſly obſerving their diſtance of a horſe's length from the front. To a want of attention in this point, may principally be attributed the frequent irregularities obſervable in lines of cavalry when at a gallop, and alſo the greater number of what are called run-away troop horſes. By the inattention of the rear rank in getting too cloſe to the front, their horſes ſtrike and wound the hind legs of thoſe of the front rank, who naturally make every effort to get out of their painful ſituation, become ungovernable, and break away out of the line. The writer of theſe ſheets has frequently obſerved troop horſes almoſt worn out through age and ſervice, who, in a common riding leſſon in the ſquare could with the utmoſt difficulty be forced into a hand gallop, when in line, in the front rank, and advancing quick, from a recollection of paſt injuries, and the apprehenſion, or probably infliction of recent ones, burſt out of the ranks, and abſolutely run away with their riders.

Conſequence of the rear rank getting too cloſe.

Run-away horſes.

Attention of officers in the rear.

The officers and quarter-maſters in the rear, therefore, cannot be too vigilant or attentive to the rear rank keeping their diſtance and managing their horſes properly: any inſtances of irregularity ſhould be reported and puniſhed.

Neceſſity of reſtricting the frequent uſe of ſpurs.

To the injudicious and intemperate application of ſpurs alſo, moſt of what are called unſteady troop horſes owe their character; and it is not the leaſt neceſſary part of the duty of a riding maſter to inculcate and enforce a moderate and well-timed uſe of them.

When

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No reining back after a halt.

When the line halts from a charge, the centre ſhould keep full up, or rather gain a little ground after the halt, in order to prevent any reining back on the flanks, than which nothing has a worſe appearance. On this occaſion the men's bodies ſhould lean back more than uſual, and the fork, or ſeat, be preſſed cloſe to the centre of the ſaddle. Rupture is very frequently the conſequence of a man's body leaning forward at the moment of a halt.

Men's bodies to lean back conſiderably at a halt.

In advancing in line, three mounted men ſhould be placed in front covering each other, and ſixty or a hundred yards aſunder, in a perpendicular line to the leader of the line, as points to march on; when the line approaches the firſt man, he ſhould gallop off, and place himſelf at the ſame diſtance in rear of the other two, and thus alternately as long as the line continues advancing.

Of PACES.

Walk.

THE regularity and perfect uniformity of paces in a corps of cavalry are the beſt poſſible teſts of its diſcipline and horſemanſhip; thus, when a walk is ordered, every horſe ſhould walk, and no trotting be allowed on any account.

Trot.

But it is the trot that proves more than all the other paces the ſteadineſs and good order of a regiment. There cannot be a more gratifying ſight to a military eye than that of a line of cavalry broke into diviſions, and moving to take up their ground in open column, the whole without exception at a fair full trot. Too much attention cannot be paid to this important circumſtance: the utmoſt ſteadineſs in the riders ſhould be exacted;

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acted; and their being reſtricted the frequent uſe of ſpurs will contribute much to promote this deſirable end.

The riding-maſter ſhould obſerve any horſes that are too fond of galloping in the ranks, order them to get their leſſons by themſelves, with ſteady horſemen on their backs, and not allow them to be put into ſquadron again till they are perfect in their paces. Obſervations.

PASSAGING.

THIS movement is neceſſary to cavalry for the purpoſe of partial regulations of intervals, &c. in line or column, or when only a ſmall ſpace of ground to a flank is required to be taken.

When an order is given to paſſage, the horſe ſhould be turned to the flank, in the ſame direction as that laid down for *inclining*, and by the ſame means. If to the right, the man ſhould ſhorten his right rein ſo as to keep his horſe in the proper direction, and make him look the way he goes; he then carries him on by light lively feels at his mouth with the right rein, and an animated preſſure to his left ſide by the calf of the left leg, but not to be ſpurred, unleſs after frequent trials he diſobeys the leg. The degrees of *feel* and *preſſure* will depend on the ſpirit and diſpoſition of the horſe; and the dragoon ſhould be ſufficiently a horſeman to perceive and apply only the degree of *aids* from hand and leg his horſe requires, before he attempts to paſſage him: at all events he muſt command his temper, and not get into a paſſion with his horſe; for as every horſe is, or ought to be, properly prepared under the direction of the riding maſter, before Directions for paſſaging. Aids. Temperance in the rider neceſſary.

before he is rode in diviſion or ſquadron; it is nine times out of ten the rider's fault if his horſe does not paſſage properly. Should the horſe get out of temper, the beſt and moſt prudent way will be to ſtop him, eaſe the hand, allow ſufficient time for his paſſion to cool, and then begin again.

Beſt mode of treating a horſe who has loſt his temper.

When the horſe has paſſaged to the right the ſpace ordered, he muſt be ſtopped by quitting the left leg, preſſing him ſtrongly with the right, and turning him ſquare to his former front.

To ſtop a horſe when paſſaging.

When a rank or diviſion is to paſſage to the right, on the command—*Paſſage to the Right*, every horſe is to be be half turned to the right—*March*; the whole preſs their left legs to their horſes and move at the ſame inſtant—*Halt*—*Front*; the horſes to be ſtopped and turned ſquare as above.

Paſſaging of ranks or diviſions.

EXERCISE of the SWORD.

THE ſword, being indiſputably the moſt formidable and eſſentially uſeful weapon of cavalry, no pains or attention ſhould be ſpared in training and perfecting the dragoons in the proper and moſt offenſive uſe of it, in preference to all other arms. The carbine, though of infinitely leſs importance, is, in general, conſidered with much more attention, and a very large portion of the ſoldier's time taken up in learning its uſe, which might be much more advantageouſly employed in exerciſing with the ſword on horſeback. Indeed, carbine exerciſe and foot parade ſeem to have acquired too great an aſcendancy in the cavalry, and appear to be the leading features in the diſcipline of ſome corps, and horſemanſhip and field manœuvres to be regarded only as appendages and

The ſword the ſuperior weapon uſed by cavalry.

The carbine much inferior to the ſword though in more general eſtimation.

Carbine exerciſe & foot parade too prevalent in the cavalry.

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and ſecondary to them. A couple of hours each day, for perhaps three days in the week, are *ſpared* for the purpoſe of riding and exerciſing on horſeback; the reſt of the time, that is not employed at ſtables, is devoted ſolely to carbine exerciſe and foot parade. Too much time employed in foot drill.

In all riding leſſons, when the men are tolerably well on horſeback, they ſhould ride with drawn ſwords, properly carried and alſo ſloped. Riding leſſons ſword in hand.

In manœuvre, regiments ſhould in general do every thing with drawn ſwords, in order that the men may be habituated to their weight and uſe. Manœuvre ſword in hand.

The following ſword exerciſe will be found highly uſeful to cavalry, and ſhould be frequently practiſed.

A poſt about four inches diameter, and eight feet high, ſhould be fixed upright in the ground, and a hole, three eighths of an inch in diameter and about four inches deep bored into the top of it; a bag of cloth ſtuffed with wool, about the ſize of a man's head, and perforated about two thirds of the ball, the opening about a quarter of an inch in diameter, ſhould be procured, and alſo a bundle of twigs of ſoft wood, each twig about a foot long; the upper part of the poſt for about a foot downwards ſhould be rolled round with old woollen cloth or leather, ſo that when an aukward fellow ſtrikes, he may not injure his ſword. One of the twigs is then inſerted into the hole on the top of the poſt, and the head placed on the twig, ſo that there be a ſpace of four or five inches between the poſt and the head. Mode of exerciſe with the ſword,

The dragoon being placed about ſixty yards from the poſt, with his ſword drawn, advances, puts his horſe into a gallop, leading with the off leg, puſhes him into three quarters ſpeed, and when near the poſt collects his horſe well, ſeats him on his haunches, makes a half circle round the poſt to by ſtriking off the head.

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to the right, keeping his own body well back, and with a back ſtroke ſtrikes off the head by cutting the twig in two; he then replaces his ſword and returns to his rank. A perſon ſhould be ſtationed near the poſt to put up the head again immediately; another dragoon then performs the ſame courſe, and ſo on till every man has had his turn.

A poſt of this deſcription, with its apparatus, ſhould be provided for each troop.

How to carry ſwords.

The men ſhould be inſtructed to carry their ſwords ſo, that the edge and their knuckles are exactly on a line, and convinced that art and dexterity in ſtriking will have more effect than the utmoſt exertion of inactive ſtrength; that what is called the *drawing ſtroke* requires leſs ſtrength, and does more execution, than any other; that is, beginning the cut about the middle of the blade, and drawing it from thence to the point. A man, by underſtanding this well, may ride cloſe up to his antagoniſt and cut him down; whereas a perſon who has not practiſed it, by getting cloſe would be unable to employ his ſword with any effect.

Dexterity, and not mere force requiſite in the uſe of the ſword.

Another leſſon with the ſword.

Another leſſon with the ſword, which will alſo be neceſſary for the dragoon to practiſe, is as follows, viz.

A poſt about ſix feet high, with one much ſlighter, and about two feet long, faſtened at right angles at the top, ſhould be fixed upright in the ground; the croſs-ſtick at top ſhould have a ſmall hook or nail driven in near the end; three rings, whoſe diameters ſhould be ſomething wider than the breadth of the ſword blade, ſhould be provided, one of theſe rings ſuſpended by a woollen thread about ſix inches long ſhould be hung on the hook.

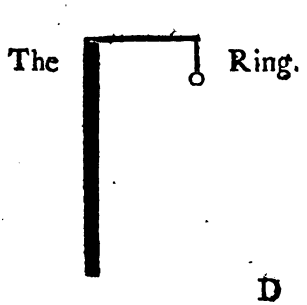
The dragoon mounted, ſword in hand, placed oppoſite to, and about the the ſame diſtance from, the

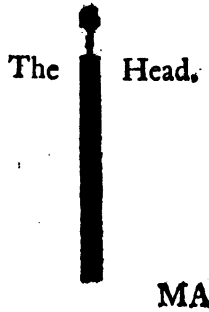
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the ring, as he was before from the head. He then advances, preſſes his horſe into a canter, leading with the off leg, increaſes his pace, and when about twenty yards from the ring, points his ſword at it, with the edge turned up, his arm extended ſtraight forward, and his body leaning forward alſo, gallops by the poſt, leaving it on his right, and endeavours to take the ring on his ſword, in which if he ſucceeds, he raiſes his ſword and arm ſtraight up, and after paſſing the poſt about twenty yards, deſcribes a ſmall ſemicircle to the right, and in returning, as he paſſes the poſt, ſtill keeping it on his right, drops the ring at the foot of it. A perſon ſhould be appointed to replace the ring when taken off. Running at the ring.

The foregoing exerciſe, often repeated and properly performed, not only inſtructs the man in the uſe of the ſword, but confirms him in his ſeat, and practiſes him in conducting and managing his horſe, by making uſe of the bit reins only; it is alſo a moſt excellent leſſon for his horſe, by accuſtoming him to gradations of pace, moving quick and well on his haunches. Obſervations.

In theſe leſſons, as in all others, the men's riding with light lively hands muſt be particularly attended to and inſiſted on. If they are allowed to ride with heavy, hard hands, the inevitable conſequence to their horſes will be callous unmanageable mouths. Light lively hands to be inſiſted on.





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MANOEUVRE.

Obſervations on the Evolutions

THE evolutions, ſo called, which uſually conſtitute a part of the review of a regiment of cavalry, are ſo generally known, that it appears unneceſſary to detail them here; they are a very uſeful leſſon for young troops, as they tend to confirm them in wheeling, filing, &c. preparatory to the practice of thoſe movements which it may be proper to adopt when employed on actual ſervice, and in preſence of an enemy.

The order of ranks by three the baſis of manœuvre.

The baſis of the following manœuvres ſhall be the movement in ranks by threes, principally.—As it has been hitherto very little known—in theory, to thoſe who are unacquainted with its properties, it may not appear to the beſt advantage: in practice its ſuperiority muſt be evident, and carry conviction to every military mind.

Filing.

Diviſions may occaſionally file, when the ground is very bad; the intelligence of officers will beſt point out when it becomes neceſſary; but it ſhould ſeldom be adopted when the movement in ranks by threes is practicable.

Method of ſizing troops in ſquadron.

It may be neceſſary to ſay ſomething of the formation and ſizing of troops in ſquadron; if the ſquadron is compoſed of two troops, the right troop ſhould be ſized in a rank intire, the talleſt man and horſe on the left, and in regular gradation till the loweſt are on the right. The left troop has the talleſt man and horſe on the right, and the loweſt on the left. The right half rank of the right troop, and the left half rank of the left troop rein back, file inwards, front, become the rear ranks, and cover their reſpective front ranks.—

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The two troops close into each other, and thus form the squadron, with the strongest men and horses in the centre, which is evidently proper on account of the severe pressure that part is subject to in all rapid movements of the line.

Number of files composing a squadron.

Thirty-six or forty-eight files compose a manageable squadron, when told off by half squadrons, quarter squadrons, and ranks by three.

Interval between squadrons.

Not more than eight yards interval should ever be allowed between squadrons when manœuvring in line.

Words of command.

All words of command should be repeated quick and loud, by officers commanding squadrons or divisions.

System of guides.

In all manœuvres of the regiment, whether forming column of divisions from line, or deploying into line from column, *guides* should previously be sent out to mark the exact spot, where each division is to form, and consider as its point of appui; this not only facilitates the movement, but gives it a degree of correctness, which it can never arrive at by the common uncertain mode of formation.—

Observations on the utility of guides in manœuvre.

The pivots of the column cover, and the guides of the divisions in line are dress accurately, previous to the divisions taking up their ground. In line, particularly, each officer commanding a division, has two fixed points to form on and dress by, viz. his own guide, and that of the succeeding division, and he is not absolutely obliged to depend on, or wait for, the dressing of the division formed up before him. Without those fixed points in forming column from line, or line from column, the succeeding division when it comes up, finds the division which it ought to cover, or dress by, unsteady and undress itself: the result is obvious; a long time is required to form an indifferent, or perhaps a bad line, or column: in the former case it is performed regularly, rapidly, and correctly.

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Men to be employed as guides.

The ſerjeants who cover officers ſhould generally be employed as guides; quarter-maſters, all the non-commiſſioned officers, and ſome of the moſt intelligent privates ſhould be often drilled as guides: practice and conſtantly exerciſing the eye, will enable them in a ſhort time to judge diſtances, cover pivots, and take up lines with quickneſs and preciſion.

Poſt of officers in column.

When in column, and the diviſions dreſt, the guides rein back to the rear rank, and commanding officers take their places.

Pivots and dreſſing.

It is to be generally obſerved, that in column, when the right is in front, the left pivots cover, and the dreſſing is to that hand, and the contrary to the left.

Exceptions to the above

There are two exceptions to the foregoing: one when the right is in front of the column, and the line is ordered to be formed to the right, in which caſe leaders of diviſions take poſt on the right flanks; the other in echellon movements. Whatever flank the echellon is formed from, commanders are poſted on the ſame flank of their reſpective diviſions.

Guides of ſquadron only neceſſary in forming line.

When the cloſe column of half ſquadrons is to deploy into line; the guides of ſquadrons only need be ſent out: indeed, it in general, will be the beſt way to draw out the left half ſquadrons by ranks of threes, form ſquadrons, and then deploy.

Equality of diviſions.

The ſeveral deſcriptions of diviſions compoſing a ſquadron, or line, ſhould, as nearly as poſſible, conſiſt of a like number of files.

Method of covering and dreſſing guides in line and column.

The guides ſhould be covered in column and dreſſed in line by the adjutant, or officer commanding the diviſion of appui; but it will in general be beſt for the officer commanding the diviſion on which the formation is to be made, to cover,

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cover, or dreſs the guides, whilſt the adjutant corrects the intervals.

In the following Manœuvres the regiment is ſuppoſed to conſiſt of three ſquadrons of two troops each, though any number of ſquadrons may be exerciſed on the ſame principles.

To Wheel to the Right into Open Column of Half-Squadrons.

Words of command.

A Caution—on which the left files of the right half ſquadrons move out and mark the wheel ſquare with the ground.

By half-ſquadrons to the right wheel.

The half ſquadrons wheel to the right, dreſſing by the left: left half-ſquadrons parallel to the right, the whole halt, by word of command from their reſpective leaders.

March.

N. B. The commander of each ſquadron takes poſt on the left, or pivot flank of the right half-ſquadron, the next ſenior officer on the ſame flank of the left half-ſquadron.

The Line wheeled into Open Column to the Right, to march on an Alignment.

A Caution—on which three intelligent non-commiſſioned officers ſhould move out in front; ſeparate about one hundred yards from each other, align themſelves on the left pivots of the column, and then rein back till their horſes' heads hang over the ſpot on which their own bodies were before placed; ſo that the pivots in marching paſt, will juſt bruſh their horſe's heads,

The column will march on the alignment by its left.

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Words of command.

Column, march,

A caution.

The column moves forward, dreſſing by the left: officers commanding diviſions on the pivot flanks. The whole care of attending to the dreſſing, and order of ſquadrons, now devolves on the ſupernumerary officers and quarter-maſters, as the officers on the pivot flanks are not to attend to any other circumſtances during the march on the alignment, than thoſe of covering exactly, and preſerving their intervals.

When the column approaches cloſe to the firſt mounted man placed as a point of view on the alignment; he turns his horſe to the left, gallops off in rear of the other two, and places himſelf beyond them, and on the ſame line at a hundred yards diſtance: the ſecond man does the ſame in turn, and thus as long as the column continues its march.

Column.

A caution.—When the column is to halt; pivots to be well covered, and intervals attended to.

Halt,

The column halts, dreſſing by the left.

The Column halted, with the Right in Front, to form in Line to the Left.

Wheel into line to the left.

A Caution:—on which the right guides of ſquadrons move out to mark the wheels, and facing to the proper front,

March.

The line is formed by wheels of the quarter-circle to the left.

Officers commanding ſquadrons dreſs them to the right. Officers who commanded left half-ſquadrons, after halting them in line, return to their poſts in the rear, and leave the dreſſing of the whole to the officers commanding ſquadrons, who, when

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Words of command.

when they have done, return to their poſts in front of their ſquadrons.

The Line to wheel into Open Column of Half-ſquadrons to the Left—March on the Alignment—Halt, and wheel up into Line to the Right.

THIS is performed exactly on the ſame principles as the foregoing, viz.

A caution.

By half-ſquadrons to the left wheel.

The line wheels by half-ſquadrons to the left, dreſſing to the right, and halt by word of command from officers commanding half-ſquadrons, who dreſs them to, and place themſelves on, the right, or pivot flank.

March.

A caution:

The column will march on the alignment by its right.

On which the three mounted men are ſent out to place themſelves as points of view on the alignment, the ſame as before.

A caution:—on which the men prepare themſelves to preſs their legs to their horſes, but without uſing ſpurs, ſo as the whole to move off the ground at the ſame inſtant.

Column.

The column moves forward by its right; officers on that flank: mounted men ſhifting their places to prolong the alignment, as before directed.

March.

A caution before halting.

Column.

The column halts, dreſſing by the right.

Halt.

A caution:—on which the left guides of ſquadrons move out, dreſs with the pivots, and mark the wheels into line: and as the pivots face to the left flank, and the guides to the proper front, the beſt directions for the latter taking up the line, will

Wheel into line to the right.

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Words of command.

be, to bring the pommels of their ſaddles into the prolongation of the line formed by the pivots of the column.

March.

The line is formed by wheels of the quarter-circle to the right; the diviſions halted by their reſpective commanders, and dreſſed to the left.

N. B. The words of command from the officer commanding the whole, ſhould be repeated as quick as poſſible by leaders of diviſions.

The mode of repeating the words of command given by the officer commanding the whole, is as follows: Commanding officer, *By half-ſquadron*, each officer commanding a diviſion, inſtantly repeats, *by half-ſquadron*:—Commanding officer, *To the right, wheel*;—Commanders of diviſions, *To the right, wheel*:—Commanding officer, *March*; commanders of diviſions, *march*.

Plate III. Fig. 7.

The Column marching by Half-ſquadrons right in front, is ordered to form into Line to the Right.

Column.

A Caution.

Halt.

The column halts.

The leading diviſion will wheel to the right.

The leading half-ſquadron is then wheeled to the right, moved up a little, and halted on the alignment, by word of command from its own officer.

Right guides.

Right guides of ſquadrons gallop out, take up the line on the right half-ſquadron, and with their proper interval of ſix yards, beſide their front.

Forwards the column.

A caution: on which officers commanding half-ſquadrons take poſt on the *right* of their diviſions and dreſſing it to that hand, for which purpoſe as the officer is ſhifting his poſt by the rear of his diviſion, he gives the word, *eyes right*.

The

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Words of command.

The whole march by the right, except the right half-ſquadron, which ſtands faſt. When the diviſions ſucceſſively arrive with their right flanks in rear of their reſpective guides, they get the word of command, *to the right*, *halt*, *wheel*, from their reſpective leaders. When the wheel is completed, *halt*, *eyes right*, *march*, *halt*, and dreſs by the guides. March.

N. B. When a diviſion is in motion, and to wheel to the right or left, the word *halt*, *wheel*, is to be given. A momentary halt ſhould precede and follow all wheels of this deſcription. If to the right, the right-hand man turns his horſe and halts. When the wheel is completed, *halt*, on which the diviſion halts; *march*, they move on together; and the ſame to the left.

When the column is marching with the left in front, and ordered to form to the left in line, it muſt be done on the ſame principles.

The Line to change Front to the Right, on the Right Half-ſquadron.

Plate IV. Fig. 8.

A Caution:——on which the left-hand men of the right half ſquadrons move out to mark the ſquareneſs of the wheels. By half-ſquadrons to the right wheel.

The half-ſquadrons wheel to the right, dreſſing by the left, and are halted by word of command from their reſpective commanders. March.

A caution. The column will cloſe.

The whole move together, cloſe to the front diviſion, which ſtands faſt, and halt at a horſe's length between March.

Words of command.

between the diviſions, by word of command from their reſpective leaders.

The column will form ſquadrons. Left half-ſquadrons only—ranks by threes, to the left take ground.

A caution.

March.

Forward.

The left half-ſquadrons wheel to the left by ranks of threes.

They move forward, dreſſing to the right, and parallel to each other. When they have marched to the flank, a ſpace ſufficient to clear them of the ſtanding half-ſquadrons: they get the words *halt*, *front*, *right dreſs*, from their own leaders, on which they dreſs by the right half-ſquadrons.

The column will cloſe.

A caution.

March.

The column cloſes and halts with a horſe's length between the ſquadrons.

The line will form on the leading ſquadron.

A caution.

Column, except the leading ſquadron, ranks by threes to the left wheel. March.

The column wheels by ranks of threes to the left, and halts.

Right guides.

They move out and take up the line at the proper intervals of ſquadron, dreſſing by the right ſquadron,

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Words of command.

ſquadron, the leader of which, or the adjutant, is to ſee that they are in correct line.

Column, march.

The whole, except the right ſquadron, move out ſtraight to the flank; ſo that when they halt and front, they will be a horſe's length retired behind each other from right to left. When the officer commanding a ſquadron, and who is placed on the right of the leading diviſion of his ſquadron, approaches cloſe to the ground in rear of his guide, he falls out to the front, lets his ſquadron paſs till the rear file covers the guide; then *halt*, *front*, *right dreſs*; and when ſteady, moves up the ſquadron, and dreſſes it between his own guide and that of the next ſquadron on his left. The left ſquadron of the line ſhould dreſs between its own guide and the point of formation, which ſhould be a mounted man, ſent to prolong the line to the left, and correctly dreſſed by the guides. If the officers dreſs their ſquadrons well, the general line being previouſly accurately marked, muſt be a good one.

The foregoing may be performed by the Operation of the open Column only, viz.

Plate IV. Fig. 9.

By half-ſquadrons to the right half wheel.

A Caution:—on which the left files of half-ſquadrons mark wheels of the 8th of a circle to the right, except the right half-ſquadron which is marked the quarter-circle to the right.

March.

The right half-ſquadron wheels to the right, and halts—all the others wheel 8th of a circle to the right, and halt. The leaders take poſt on the right of half-ſquadrons, and as they are changing by the rear, they give the words, *eyes right*.

Right guides.

The guides move out at a gentle gallop, and are aligned

Words of command.

aligned on the right half-ſquadron at their proper intervals.

The line will form on the right half-ſquadron.

A caution,

March.

Each diviſion marches by its right, the leader moves on a diagonal line to a point ſix or eight yards in rear of his guide, where he begins a gradual wheel without halting, by the right ſtaying their horſes a little, and the left moving up, ſo as to bring them ſquare to their proper front; move them up, *halt*, and dreſs them in line between the guides.

To change Front to the Left, on Left Half-ſquadron of the Line.

THE foregoing change of front to the right, on right half-ſquadron, plainly indicates how it ſhould be performed to the left, on left half-ſquadron, by the combined operations of open and cloſe column, or that of the open column only.

In the firſt inſtance; the line wheels to the left into open column of half-ſquadrons, halt: the column is cloſed to a horſe's length between diviſions, and then wheeled by ranks of threes to the right, except the left half ſquadron, which ſtands faſt—ſend out left guides; deploy to the right; *halt*, *front*, and dreſs by the guides.

In the ſecond——The line wheels the eighth of a circle to the left by half-ſquadrons, and halts, except the left half-ſquadron, which continues its wheel to a quarter-circle, and halts; left guides are ſent out and aligned on the left half-ſquadron,

leaders

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Words of command.

leaders take poſt on the left of diviſions, and dreſſing is to that hand; move diagonally, wheel up, halt, and dreſs by the guides.

All theſe manœuvres may be performed by ſquadron, quarter-ſquadron, or any other ſection the commanding officer chuſes. The half-ſquadron is generally made choice of here, as the moſt convenient diviſion to work upon.

To change Front to the Left, on the Right Half-Squadron.

Plate V. Fig. 10.

A Caution:—on which the left files of half-ſquadrons move out to mark the half-wheels; right half-ſquadron ſtands faſt.

Except the right half-ſquadron, by half-ſquadrons to the right half wheel.

The half-ſquadrons (except the right) half wheel to the right; halt, and when ſteady, *right, dreſs*.

March.

The half-ſquadrons (except the right) wheel to the right by ranks of threes, and halt.

Ranks by threes to the right wheel. March.

The left guides move out and take up their intervals in open column. The leader of right half-ſquadron ſees that they cover: the adjutant corrects their intervals if neceſſary.

Left guides of half-ſquadrons take up your places in open column in rear of the right half-ſquadron.

The half-ſquadrons wheeled to the right by ranks of threes, facing to, and pointing at, their places in column; march to their reſpective guides; the com-

Half-ſquadrons March.

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Words of command.

commander of each half-ſquadron leads it, on the left of the leading rank of his diviſion. When the leader of the half-ſquadron arrives at his guide he halts; ſees his diviſion paſs in rear of the guide, till the left-hand man covers him: he then inſtantly gives the words, *halt*, *front*, *left*, *dreſs*; the guide then reins back to the rear rank, and the officer takes his place.

Wheel into line to the left.

A caution:——on which the right files of ſquadrons only move out to mark the wheels, dreſſing by the pivots, and fronting to the left of the column.

March.

The line is formed by wheels of the quarter-circle to the left: officers dreſs their ſquadrons to the right.

N. B. If the regiment has had ſufficient practice, the half-ſquadrons, in columns of ranks by threes, may move to their places in open column at a briſk trot.

Plate V. Fig. 11.

To change Front to the Right, on the Left Half-Squadron.

By half-ſquadrons to the left, half wheel.

A Caution:—left half-ſquadron ſtands faſt; right files of all the others mark the half-wheel.

March.

The half-ſquadrons, except the left, wheel half to the left and *halt*.

Ranks by threes to the left wheel.

A caution.

March.

Except the left half-ſquadron, the whole wheel by ranks of threes to the left, halt; and then each half-ſquadron will ſtand in column of ſix horſes in front, and pointing to its place in open column.

They

Words of command.

They move out and place themſelves in open column covering and keeping intervals. — Right guides.

A caution.

Form open column.

The half ſquadrons (except the left) move to their guides; paſs them in rear, *halt*, *front*, *right*, *dreſs*. Guides rein back, and officers take poſt on the pivot flank. — March.

The pivots having been previouſly covered, and diſtances aſcertained, the line is formed by wheels of the quarter circle to the right. The commanding officer of the ſquadron dreſſes it to the left, and then takes poſt at the head of his ſquadron, a horſe's length from, and covered by, the centre man. — Wheel into line to the right.

N. B. In formations of open column, the rear diviſions of the column may open their diſtances a little in order to trot full out, or by opening them a little more may gallop; but in both caſes when they approach near to their guides, they muſt bring their horſes to a moderate trot, and cloſe up, ready to halt, and front, when ordered.

To change Front to the Right, on the Fourth Half-Squadron.

Plate VI. Fig. 12.

A Caution.

By half-ſquadrons to the right wheel.

The whole wheel by half-ſquadrons to the right; halt in open column, and dreſs by the left. — March.

A caution:—on which the fourth half-ſquadron ſends up its right and left flank files, who place themſelves with their horſe's heads almoſt touching the — The line will form on the 4th half-ſquadron.

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Words of command.

the heads of the two flank file horſes of the leading half-ſquadron of the column.

A caution.

Ranks by threes to the right and left wheel.

March.

The three half-ſquadrons in front of the fourth wheel by ranks of threes to the right: thoſe in its rear wheel in like manner to the left, and halt.

Right and left guides.

The left guides of the three half-ſquadrons in front take up their alignment on the right of the fourth half-ſquadron. The right guides of half-ſquadrons in rear of the fourth, take up their alignment on its left; the whole of the guides dreſſing by the leading diviſion of the column.

March.

The half-ſquadrons march to their reſpective flanks; halt, and front. As ſoon as the fourth half ſquadron is unmaſked by the diviſions in its front, it moves up to the ground previouſly marked by its flank files, and in a line with the guides. The diviſions then move up into line, thoſe on the right of the fourth, dreſſing to the left, thoſe on its left dreſſing to the right. The leading diviſion of the column, as ſoon as the guides are dreſſed, ſhould rein back to quarter diſtance, to prevent its interfering with the guides, when deploying to the flank.

To change Front to the Rear by the Countermarch of the Line.

A Caution.

By half-ſquadrons to the left wheel.

The half-ſquadrons wheel to the left, and halt.

March.

Left guides

The guides of half-ſquadrons move out; that of the right half-ſquadron places himſelf on the left of the left half-ſquadron but one; the other guides

Words of command.

guides ſucceſſively cover him and take their reſpective diſtance of open column, facing the ſame way the column does.

A caution.

By half-ſquadrons to the right and left about, wheel outwards.

The quarter ſquadrons wheel about outwards and halt, except the right half-ſquadron of the line which ſtands faſt. March.

A caution.

Countermarch the whole.

The right half-ſquadron moves forward by its left, and halts at its guide; having been previouſly unmaſked in front by the quarter ſquadrons of the others, wheeling about outwards. March.

The quarter-ſquadrons move on at the ſame time, when the ſecond half-ſquadron arrives on the flanks of the ground where the right half-ſquadron originally ſtood, it wheels about inwards by quarter-ſquadrons, halts: moves on by its left, and halts and dreſſes by its guide. All the other half-ſquadrons do the ſame in ſucceſſion, except the left, which paſſed its own guide, then wheels about inwards by quarter-ſquadrons, halts and dreſſes by its guide.

The line is formed by wheels of the quarter-circle to the left, and facing to the rear exactly on the ſame ground it ſtood before. Wheel into line to the left, *march*.

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Another Way of Countermarching the Line.

By half-ſquadrons to the left wheel.

A Caution.

March.

The whole wheel by half-ſquadrons to the left and halt.

Column, except the leading half-ſquadrons, which will countermarch, Ranks by threes to the right take ground.

A caution.

March.

Forward.

Halt.

Front.

They wheel by ranks of threes to the right: they move forward inſtantly, without halting: leaders of half-ſquadrons dreſſing by the left.—When the half-ſquadrons have taken ground to the flank, the breadth of their own front. They come to their original front in column, by wheeling by ranks of threes to the left. The left half-ſquadron, during thoſe operations of the column, countermarches on its ground, by word of command from its own leader.

Right guides.

They move out and place themſelves: the guide of the left half-ſquadron, on the ſpot where the left of the right half-ſquadron originally ſtood when in column, but facing the oppoſite way; the other guides take up their places in his rear, and in open column.

Countermarch the whole.

A caution.

The

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Words of command.

The left half-ſquadron moves on by its right, and halts at its guide. All the others when they ſucceſſively arrive with their left on the line where the left half ſquadron before ſtood: *wheel to the left about. Halt. March* by their right, *and halt* at their guides by words of command from their own officers. March.

Wheel into line to the right, March.

A caution.

The open column ſtanding with its left in front. The line is formed by wheels of the quarter-circle to the right.

N. B. When the line, column, or any part of either, gets the word of command to *wheel* to the right or left, or right or left about, it *halts* after the movement. But when the order is to *take ground* to *right*, *left*, or *rear*, the word *forward* is inſtantly given, and the body moves on *without halting*.

The open Column marching with its right in front, is ordered to wheel into a new Alignment to the Right. Halted when the third Half-ſquadron enters it, and is ordered to form oblique Line to the Left.

Plate VI. Fig. 13.

A Caution.

The three rear half-ſquadrons of the columns. Ranks by threes to the left wheel.

They wheel by ranks of threes to the left, and halt. March.

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Words of command.

Left guides

Of the three rear diviſions move out, and place themſelves in open column, and covering the left pivots of the three front diviſions.

Three rear diviſions. March.

The three rear diviſions wheeled by ranks of threes to the left, march to their guides, *halt*, *front*, left, dreſs, by word of command from their reſpective officers.

Wheel into line to the left.

The open column ſtanding right in front with its left pivots covered, and intervals correct: the line is formed by wheels of the quarter-circle to the left.

To form double Column of Quarter Squadrons at half Diſtance on the two Centre Quarter Squadrons of the Line.

Quarter-ſquadrons on the right and left of the two centre, to the right and left half wheel. March.

A Caution, on which flank files are ſent out to mark the half wheels.

The quarter-ſquadrons of the right wing half wheel to the left; thoſe of the left wing half wheel to the right. The two centre quarter-ſquadrons ſtand faſt.

Ranks by threes to the right and left wheel.

A caution.

March.

The quarter-ſquadrons of the right wing wheel by ranks of threes to the left—thoſe of the left wing to the right. The two centre quarter-ſquadrons do not move.

A caution.

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Words of command.

A caution.

Quarter-ſquadrons form double column on the centre.

They march to their places in column. The leader of each quarter-ſquadron ſtops when he arrives at the outward flank of his place in column; ſees his diviſion paſs: *Halt, front*: right or *left dreſs*. Guides need not be ſent out in quarter-ſquadrons forming into column at half diſtance. March.

The double column is now ready to march to the front. Forms its march to right or left flank or rear. The great excellence of all formations, whether of line or column, by ranks of threes, is, that they can be moved in any direction, or brought to any point, with the utmoſt facility, and without extenſion of ſpace.

The Cloſe Column of Half Squadrons formed Right in Front; it is found neceſſary to take up a Poſition to the Right of the Front, where the Right is to be appuy'd, and on which the Column is to deploy into Line.

Plate VII. Fig. 14.

THIS is done by the cloſe column marching inclining to the right—*fronting*, and moving forward, when in rear of the point of appui—halting on the alignment, and deploying into line by the means already deſcribed.

Or; If the poſition to be taken up is a conſiderable diſtance to the right, and but a ſhort way in front, ſo as not to be conveniently reached by the incline: then, the cloſe column takes ground to its right by ranks of threes—moves ſtraight to the flank, dreſſing by the left, or front diviſion: halts,

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and when it arrives in rear of the point of appui —moves up and halts on the alignment; and the column deploys to the left into line, by ranks of threes on the leading diviſion of the column.

Plate VIII. Fig. 15.

To change Front to the Right, on the third Half-Squadron of the Line, by wheeling.

THE third half-ſquadron is wheeled to the right, and placed in the new poſition.

Right ſquadron. Ranks by threes right about wheel.

A caution.

March.

The right ſquadron goes about and halts.

By half-ſquadrons to the right half wheel.

A caution.

March.

Except the third half-ſquadron, the whole wheel the eighth of a circle to the right and halt.

Right and left guides.

The left guides of the right, and the right guides of the left half-ſquadrons take up their reſpective places in the new line.

March.

The whole march on diagonal lines to their places, marked by guides, *halt*, and *front*. The two right half-ſquadrons, when they are aligned, come to the right about by ranks of threes and dreſs to the left: the half-ſquadrons on the left of the third half-ſquadron dreſs to the right.

To

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Words of command.

To change Front to the Left on the Fourth Half Squadron by wheeling. Plate VIII.

A Caution.

Left ſquadron, ranks by threes to the right about wheel.

The left ſquadron goes about by ranks of threes and halts. March.

A caution.

By half-ſquadrons to the left half wheel.

The whole except the fourth half-ſquadron wheel the eighth of a circle to the left and halt. March.

The left guide of right ſquadron, and right guide of left ſquadron move out and place themſelves in line with the fourth half-ſquadron, and at their proper intervals. Right and left guides.

A caution.

Form the line to the left.

The half-ſquadrons march on diagonal lines to their reſpective flanks. When the two left half-ſquadrons are aligned on their guides they halt—come about by ranks of threes, and dreſs by the right. The three half-ſquadrons on the right halt in line, and dreſs to the left. March.

N. B. When the line is dreſſed, on moſt occaſions it will be proper to give the word, *eyes front.*

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Words of command.

METHOD OF CHANGING FRONT BY INVERTED COLUMN.

To change Front to the Right on the third Half Squadron of the Line, by the Operation of Inverted Column.

By half-squadrons to the right and left wheel.

A Caution, on which the half-ſquadrons are directed to wheel. Thoſe on the right of the third one-eighth of a circle to the left: and thoſe on the left of the third five-eighths of a circle to the right, except the fourth half-ſquadron, which only wheels the quarter-circle to the right.

March.

The half-ſquadrons wheel as above directed, and halt.

Ranks by threes to the left wheel.

A caution.

March.

Thoſe on the right of the third half-ſquadron wheel to the left and point to the rear of the third. Thoſe on the left of it wheel to the left alſo, and point to the front of the third.

Right and left guides.

The left guides of the three half-ſquadrons on the left place themſelves in front of, and facing to, the right or pivot file of the third half-ſquadron. The right guides of the two right half-ſquadrons place themſelves in rear of the third, and covering its right file. The fourth half-ſquadron in front of the third, takes double interval from it.

Form inverted column.

A caution.

The

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Words of command.

The half-ſquadrons move into their reſpective places, *halt*, *front*, and dreſs by their guides. March.

A caution.

Wheel into line to the right and left.

The three right half-ſquadrons dreſs to the right —the three left half-ſquadrons wheel to the left and halt: the whole dreſs by the centre. March.

N. B. The line ſhould be prolonged on both flanks, by mounted men, in all formations on central diviſions.

To change Front to the Left on the Fourth Half Squadron of the Line, by Inverted Column.

A Caution:—the three half-ſquadrons on the right of the fourth are ordered to wheel five eighths of a circle to the left. The two half-ſquadrons on its left to wheel only one-eighth to the right—the fourth half-ſquadron to ſtand faſt. Men ſhould be ſent out from all the half-ſquadrons, to mark their reſpective portions of wheel ordered. By half-ſquadrons to the right and left wheel.

They wheel their reſpective portions of the circle, and halt. March.

A caution.

Ranks by threes, to the right wheel.

The whole, except the fourth half-ſquadron, wheel by ranks of threes and halt. March.

The right guides of the three half-ſquadrons on the right of the fourth move out in front and place themſelves facing to its left guide, and covering it. The left guides of the two half-ſquadrons on the left of the fourth move to the rear and cover its left guide Right and left guides.

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Words of command.

guide alſo: the third half-ſquadron guide takes double interval from the fourth, all the other half-ſquadrons at the uſual diſtance of open column.

Wheel into line to the right and left.

A caution.

March.

The line is formed by the three right half-ſquadrons wheeling the quarter circle to the right: the three left half-ſquadrons to the left; the whole dreſſing to the fourth half-ſquadron.

N. B. The two foregoing manœuvres performed by the operation of inverted column, will plainly indicate how changes of front may be effected on any other diviſions of the line.

Of Charging in Line.

THE charge in line, the moſt important movement of cavalry, and to which all evolutions and manœuvres are only preparatives, ſhould be performed with all the rapidity poſſible, conſiſtent with the order and union of the ſquadrons.

In charging infantry, if the ground is practicable, the line ſhould begin to gallop at three hundred yards diſtance from the enemy, in order to receive as few fires as poſſible.

In charging cavalry, when a formidable fire is not to be expected, the line need not begin to gallop till within eighty or one hundred yards of the enemy, in order that the horſes may arrive in wind, and full vigour, when they ſhock with the oppoſing body.

It cannot be too often repeated, that the effect of the charge depends in a great meaſure on the attention

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attention and ſteadineſs of the leaders of ſquadrons. The beſt troops will crowd, and fall into diſorder, if badly led.

When the charge is ſucceſsful, and the enemy broke, the flank ſquadrons, half-ſquadrons, or any proportion of the line, that local circumſtances may require, ſhould be ordered to diſperſe, and purſue the fugitives. Firing of carbines and piſtols in this caſe, ſhould not be encouraged, as there is a great deal of time loſt in loading on horſeback. The ſword is by far the beſt weapon for a horſeman on this, and indeed, on moſt other occaſions.

It will generally be adviſeable in caſe of a purſuit, to have a central ſquadron or diviſion remain formed. This will not only tend to prevent any attempt of the broken enemy at rallying, but will ſerve as a point, for the purſuers to form to, in caſe it ſhould be found neceſſary to recall them—or, to take charge of any priſoners who may be brought in.

Charging Infantry, Part of the Line thrown into Column.

IT may be neceſſary to attack a line of infantry, a part of whoſe right wing is covered in front by difficult ground, on which cavalry cannot act in line.

The line of cavalry advancing perceives this, orders that part of its left which is obſtructed by the bad ground, to fall back into open column of quarter-ſquadrons, on the next quarter-ſquadron on their right, which keeps its place in line.

The whole is ordered to advance and charge:—the line ſtraight forward; the column wheel ſucceſſively

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ceſſively by quarter ſquadrons, to the left, and charge down the enemy's right flank.

The ſame mode of attack may be practiſed againſt a ſuppoſed left flank.

Skirmiſhers ſhould always precede and cover ſuch manœuvres.

A particular ſignal of the trumpet or bugle ſhould be eſtabliſhed, on the ſound of which the whole ſhould come in and form.

Plate IX. Fig. 17. *Double Column of Attack from the Centre and Enfilading Charge to both Flanks.*

A Body of Infantry is ſuppoſed poſted, part of whoſe right and left wings are ſecured by obſtacles in front, only acceſſible in the centre, and it is found indiſpenſably neceſſary to attempt diſlodging them.

The regiment formed in line, compoſed of three ſquadrons, and marching to the attack, the centre ſquadron continues its march in front; the flank ſquadrons ſlacken their pace, incline inwards, and form two open columns of quarter ſquadrons, on the right and left quarter ſquadrons of the centre; the right and left quarter ſquadrons of the line forming the rear of the columns.

The whole move on to the attack, charge, the centre ſquadron ſtraight forward, the two columns in its rear, charge by diviſions ſucceſſively to both flanks.

If completely ſucceſsful, both flank ſquadrons, and the two flank quarter ſquadrons of the centre may be ſent in purſuit; the centre half ſquadron remains formed, to be ready for any emergency.

Threatening

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Threatening the Right of a Body of Infantry poſted, and making the Attack on the Left. Plate X. Fig. 19.

IN this caſe, the corps ſhould move down towards the enemy's right, in cloſe column of ſquadrons; form into line, and ſend out a ſtrong party of ſkirmiſhers to annoy that flank. This feint may induce the enemy to reinforce the right wing from the left, the point really intended to be attacked. This being ſuppoſed accompliſhed, cloſe column is formed in front of the right half ſquadron; the column takes ground to the right, by ranks of threes, moves briſkly to the flank, and when a ſufficient diſtance, *Halt—Front*; form the line on the leading half ſquadron, by deploying to the right, and move on to the attack of their left flank.

This may be practiſed on ſimilar principles in attacking the right flank.

To Retreat in open Ground by Alternate Half Squadrons. Plate IX. Fig. 18.

A Line of cavalry repulſed, and preſſed by an enemy, may retreat by alternate half ſquadrons, thus:

The left half ſquadrons are ordered to the right about by ranks of threes, retreat fifty, ſixty, or an hundred yards, and then front. The right half ſquadrons then go about in the ſame manner; retire,

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retire, and when paſſed the left half ſquadrons about the ſame diſtance, front; and thus continue to retreat by alternate half ſquadrons as long as may be neceſſary. Great attention ſhould be paid to intervals; but ſhould they be cloſed too much, that part of the retiring half ſquadron obſtructed ſhould fall back, double on its right or left, and reſume its place in line, as ſoon as it gets clear of the ſtanding half ſquadron.

In a retreat of this kind, ſkirmiſhers ſhould be reinforced conſiderably. The manœuvre may conclude by forming the line, calling in the ſkirmiſhers, and charging to the front.

To Retreat through a Defile, or over a Bridge.

A Corps of cavalry retreating, and a bridge or defile preſenting itſelf, through which they muſt paſs, the following modes may be adopted:

Whether the corps is retreating in line or column, if the paſs is broad enough to admit of ſix horſes marching in front, the whole file from the right of ſquadrons to the rear, and cloſe to the the leading files of the ſquadron neareſt the entrance to the paſs; when got through the defile, the column may expand itſelf, taking diſtance from the centre ſquadron, continue its march, or form in line to the rear.

If the paſs is only broad enough for four horſes in front, the right or left ſquadron may be ordered to fall back, and follow the centre ſquadron in column of files; as ſoon as clear of the defile, the ſquadron in rear of the centre moves up and takes its place in front.

Or

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Or thus:

A line of cavalry drawn up fronting the enemy, and the defile or bridge in its rear, the right and left threes of the line wheel about by ranks, retreat, and close in to each other in the centre, the threes of the rear rank leading to the rear, and followed by their respective front rank threes: the threes of the line successively wheel and follow in column, till the whole are in motion to the rear; they may then move at a brisk trot till clear of the pass, continue the march, or should it become proper to form the line to its proper front, it is performed inconceivably quick:—the column is halted, and brought to the right about by ranks of threes, when the column will stand, with the two centre threes of the line at its head; form up, by the wings extending to their respective flanks, moving up, and dressing by the centre.

In both these cases, there ought to be strong detachments of skirmishers sent out to mask the manœuvres, and prevent the enemy from pressing too much on the retreating corps.

In retreating in full line, should any obstacle interfere with any part of it, that part should fall back, double to the right and left, and follow in rear of the line: their interval in line should be correctly preserved. When the obstacle is passed, they move up into their places again.

The officer in rear of the squadron, which has the obstacle in front, should give the necessary directions for passing it. The officer commanding the squadron, being wholly occupied in leading to the front, cannot attend to any partial regulation of the squadron, during its march.

A Line

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Plate XI. Fig. 20. *A Line of Cavalry to take Ground to the Right and Front, by an Echellon Movement.*

THE line ſuppoſed in preſence of an enemy, and it is found neceſſary to take up a poſition conſiderably to the right of the front; and as breaking to the right by diviſions is only preſenting ſo many flanks to an enemy, it is ordered to take up its ground by inclining.

But as it is extremely difficult to incline a long line for any great diſtance, the following mode will be found to obviate many of the inconveniences attending that movement, and accelerate the manœuvre.

The line moves on at a walk, the ſecond half ſquadron falls back, till it juſt clears the rear rank of the preceding one: the right half ſquadron of the centre falls back in like manner, keeping its interval of ſquadron of ſix yards from the right ſquadron, and thus till the whole are in echellon. The whole is then ordered to incline to the right at a trot; the right of each half ſquadron ſtill keeping the left of the preceding one as its guide; ſo that the whole incline in this way with as much eaſe as a ſingle half ſquadron could, and the crowding and irregularity which frequently happen in inclining a line to right or left avoided. When the right has arrived in rear of the point at which it is to be placed, the word *Front* is given—*Form the Line*, which is done immediately, by moving up and dreſſing by the right half ſquadron.

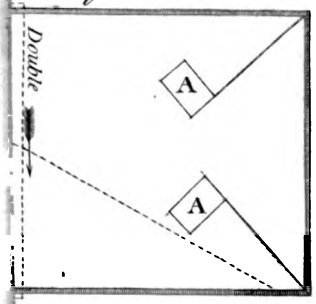


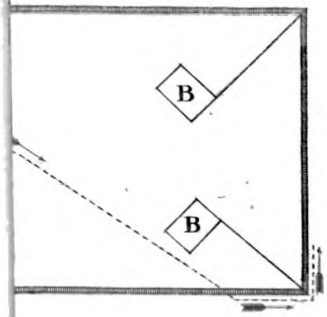
THE END.

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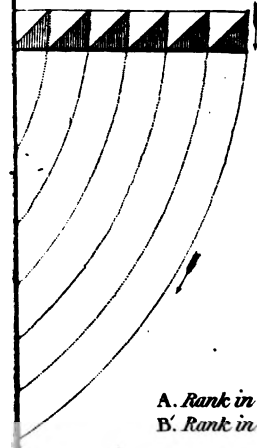
Plate 1.

Squares.





Quarter Circle to the Right



A. *Rank in First Position.*
B. *Rank in Second Position.*

Neele sc. Strand.

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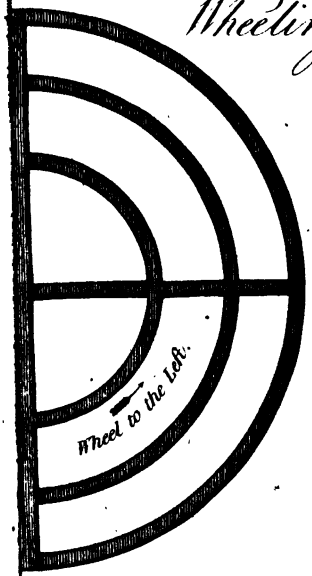
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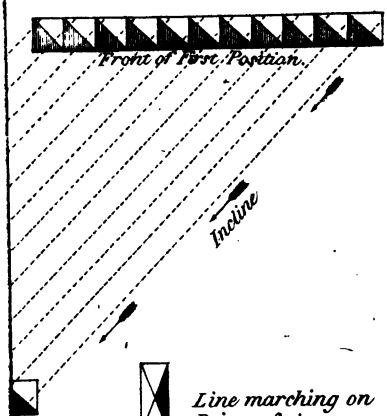


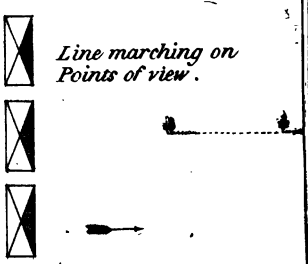
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Plate 2.

Wheeling.





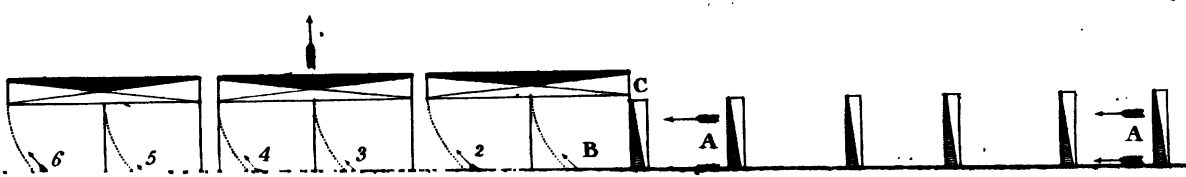


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March in Open Column Right in front, & formation to the Right on leading Squadron?



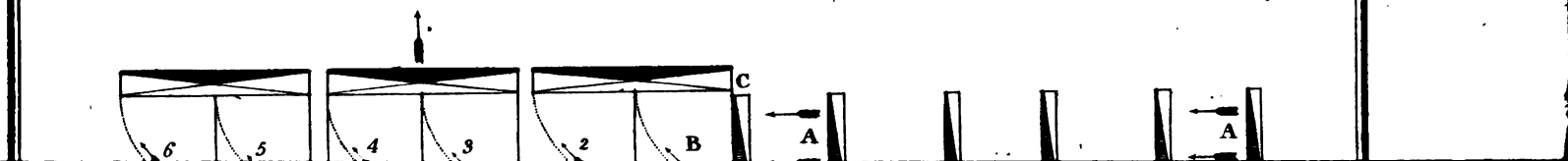
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Plate 3

March in Open Column Right in front, & formation to the Right on leading Squadron?

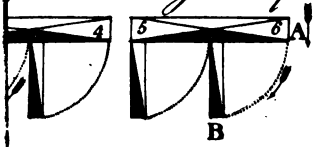


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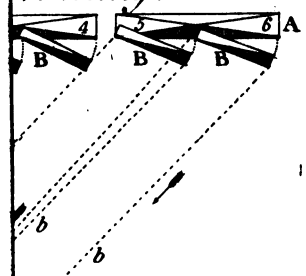
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ght on Right Squadron?



Line in its First Position.
Half Squadron wheel'd into open Column to the Right.
Column of Half Squadron on Right Half Squadron.
eft Half Squadrons drawn out by Ranks of Threes,
, fronted and moved up to form Squadrons.
Centre & Left Squadrons wheel'd to the Left by Ranks
rees, ready to deploy into Lines.
arch of the Centre & Left Squadrons to the Flank.
Centre & Left Squadrons halted & fronted, ready to
up into Lines
Guides of Centre and Left Squadrons, previously
and dress'd with Right Squadron.
Line with its Front changed to the Right.

e Right, by operation of Wheeling.



A. The Line in its First Position.
B. The Half Squadrons wheel'd 8th of a Circle to the Right.
a The Right Half Squadron wheel'd the Quarter Circle to the Right & standing on the New Alignment.
b. The march of the Half Squadrons to their respective places in Line.
C. The Flanks of the Line with its Front changed to the Right.
)OOOO The 5 Right Guides of Half Squadrons, align'd from Right Half Squadron.

Neele sc. Strand.

6, by T. Egerton, Whitehall.

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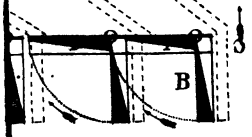
on Right Half Squadron.



A. The Line in its 1st Position
B. The Half Squadrons half wheel'd to the right, & disengaged to the Rear.
a The Right Half Squadron which stands fast.
b. The Half Squadrons wheel'd by Ranks of Threes to the Right, and pointing to their places in Column.
c. The march of the Half Squadrons in Ranks by Threes, to their places in Column.
C. The open Column of Half Squadron, Right in Front.
D. The Flanks of the Line in its 2d Positn.
OOOO Left Guides of Half Squadrons covering in open Column.

on Left Half Squadrons.

The Flanks of the Line in First Position.
The 5 Right Half Squadrons of the Line wheel'd 8th of Circle to the Left, to disengage to the Rear.
The Half Squadrons wheel'd by Ranks of Threes to the Left, and pointing to their places in Column.
The march of the Half Squadrons to Three places in open Column.
The open Column Left in Front.
The Flanks of the Line in its 2d Position.
OOOOO Right Guides of Half Squadrons covering in open Column.



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by T. Egerton Whitehall.

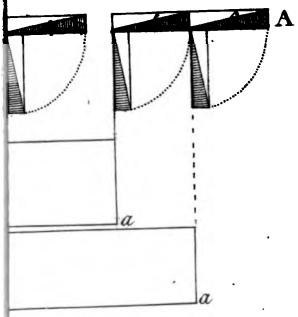
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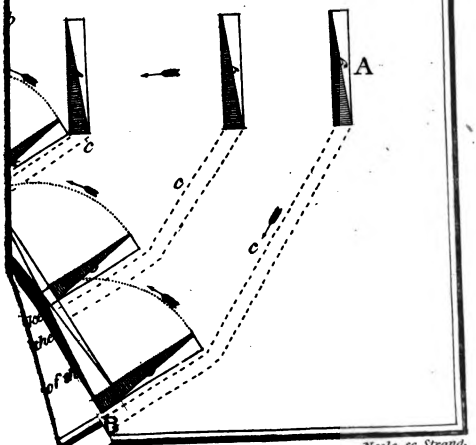
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on 4 Half Squadron.

Line in its First Position.
en Column right in Front.
h the Half Squadrons deploy when wheel'd by Ranks of
ft, when they Halt, Front and move up with Line.
th Half Squadron to its place in Line, when unmasked
ons in its Front.
of 4th Half Squadron marking its place in Line.



n marching Right in Front,
el into a New Alignment,
on Oblique Line to the Left.



Neele sc. Strand.

Whitehall.

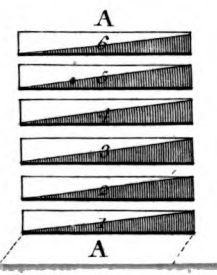
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The Close Column to form in Line, on a Point to the Right of its Front.

Fig. 14



A. The close Column of Half Squadrons.
B. The point of Appui at which the right of the Line is to be posted
a. The close Column inclining to the Right on its Point B.
b. The close Column having wheel'd to the Left by Ranks of Threes, deploying into Line on the leading Half Squadron.

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To change front to the Right on the 3.d half Squadron of the Line by Wheeling.

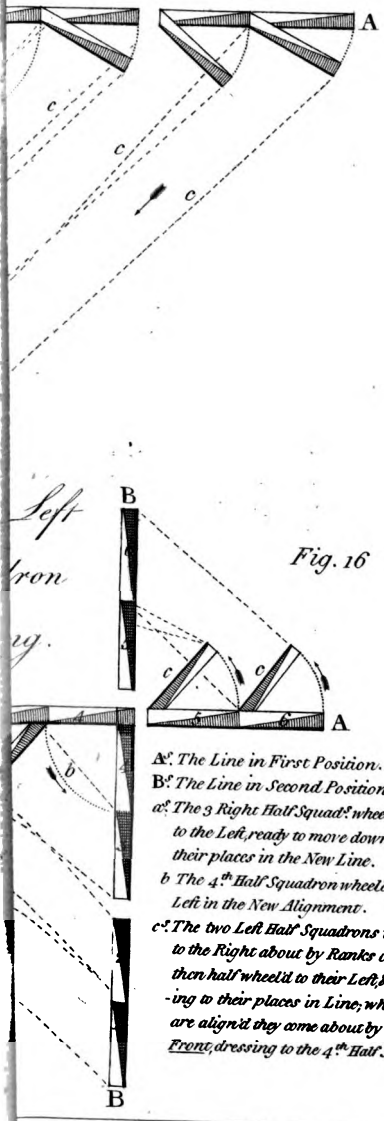


Fig. 16

A.s The Line in First Position.
B.s The Line in Second Position.
a.s The 3 Right Half Squad.s wheel'd half to the Left, ready to move down into their places in the New Line.
b The 4.th Half Squadron wheel'd to the Left in the New Alignment.
c.s The two Left Half Squadrons wheel'd to the Right about by Ranks of Threes, then half wheel'd to their Left, & pointing to their places in Line; when they are align'd they come about by the word Front, dressing to the 4.th Half Squadron.

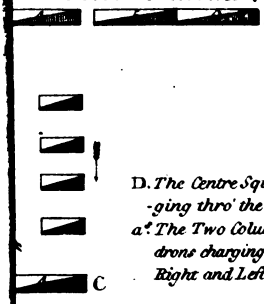
6, by T. Egerton Whitehall. Nelee sc. Strand.

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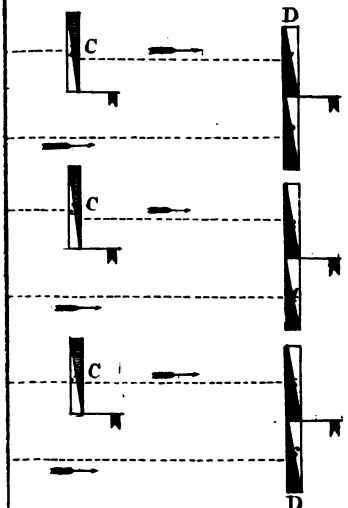


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the Center & Enfilading both Flanks.



by Alternate half Squadrons.



Neele sc. Strand.

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Threatning the Right of a body of Infantry posted & making the Attack on their Left.

A. The Close Column Halted.
B. The Column deploy'd into Line on the Right Half Squadron.
C. The Line moved forward and threat'ning the Enemy's Right.
D The Close Column formed Left in Front.
E The Close Column having wheel'd to the Right by Ranks of Threes, marching to the Right.
F The Close Column Halted and Fronted.
G. The Line formed on the leading or Left Division of the Column, ready to move down to the Attack of the Enemy's Left.
a. The Half Squadrons wheel'd 8th of a Circle to the Left & to the Right by Ranks of Threes, ready to move into Close Column, in Front of the Right Half Squadron.
b. Skirmishers sent out from the Line C. to annoy the Enemy's Right Flank.
H. The Enemy's Line.

Fig. 19



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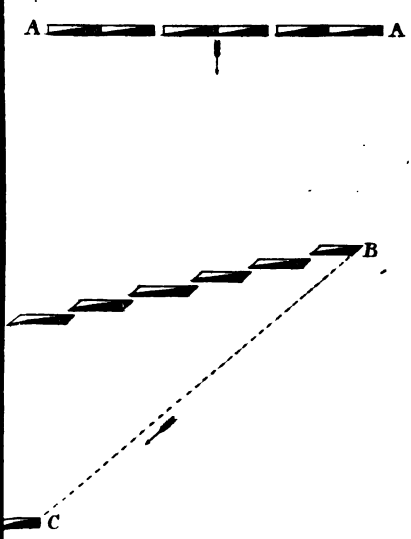


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Plate 11.

Ground to the Right & Front
rn. Movement.

t Position.
to the Right in Echellen.
ing taken Ground to Flank
ht to its proper Front.



Neale sc Strand.

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